

U.S. Serial No. 10/698,453

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REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-3, and 5-24 are pending.

Claims 1-3 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al., U.S. 3,742,458 (Inoue). Claims 11-19 and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al., U.S. 6,681,303 (Watanabe). The Applicants have added the subject matter of canceled Claim 4 to Claim 1 to put Claim 1 in condition for allowance, the subject matter of Claim 4 having been indicated to be allowable on Page 13 of the Office Action.

Further, Claim 21 has been amended to more closely reflect the language of Claim 4 deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicants believe that Claim 21 and 22 are also in condition for allowance.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 11, the data processing system of Claim 11 includes a first storage area that is associated with a data range in which data can be located, and a second storage area that is associated with range information which specifies a storage area location/attribute. The data range set forth in amended Claim 11 does not refer necessarily to a specified physical area, but refers to a range that can exist within the first storage area.

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"Range information" refers to a range to which each storage area already belongs. See Fig. 10.

Thus, the amendments to Claim 11 place it in condition for allowance because neither Inoue nor Watanabe sets a range in which the data can be arranged, and sets range information from which the data processing system can judge whether or not data to be stored can be arranged in the storage area.

As well, the Applicants note that Claim 16 defines subject matter that is quite similar to that already deemed allowable for Claim 4.

For each of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that Claims 11-18 are allowable.

Similarly, independent Claim 19 recites a storage device similar to that set forth in the data processing system of Claim 11. The Claim 19 storage device includes a first storage area that is associated with a data range in which data can be located, and a second storage area that is associated with range information which specifies a storage area location/attribute. The storage device judges whether or not the first storage area associated with the first data range can be located in the second storage area associated with the range information according to a comparison of the

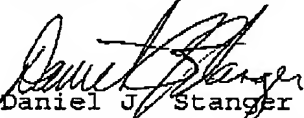
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data range and range information, and the storage device outputs the judging results.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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